

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 34, 37 through 54 and 57 through 64 are pending in this application. Claims 35, 36, 55 and 56 have been cancelled.

The Office Action rejects claims 34 through 64 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sheehy (U.S. Patent No. 5,653,732). This rejection is moot as to claims 35, 36, 55 and 56, which have been cancelled. Sheehy fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claims 34, 37 through 54 and 57 through 64.

The proximal end of the Sheehy stem has a third annular ridge 46 encircling the nipple where the Office Action asserts that the "inwardly concave shape" is shown. The Sheehy plan view of Figure 4 makes it abundantly clear that this is not an inwardly concave surface that is smooth as described in claim 34. A "ridge" is a "raised strip." (Webster's II New College Dictionary, p. 953). The region between the stem and base of the Sheehy nipple clearly is not smooth, i.e., Sheehy uses the ridge 46 to separate the stem and base.

Claim 45 has the feature of the nipple having only one edge along the base, which is an annular edge disposed between the areola region and the bulbous region. In contrast, Sheehy has three distinct annular ridges (46, 44, 40) disposed between each of the curved upper segment 42, the curved intermediate segment 38 and the curved lower segment 36, respectively.

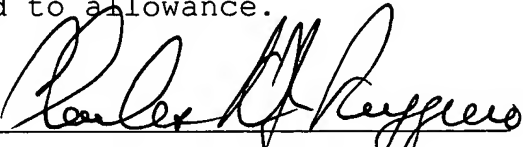
Claim 57 has the areola region and the proximal end of the stem being connected to form an inwardly concave surface, with a transition from the areola region to the proximal end of the

stem being smooth. Sheehy fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 57 as shown again in Figure 4 of Sheehy and described above.

Claims 37 through 44, 46 through 54 and 58 through 64 depend from claims 34, 45 and 57, respectively, and thus, are also not anticipated by Sheehy.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all claims present in this application are patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims. Also, applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to allowance.

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